

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 - 59. (Cancelled).

60. (Previously presented) A process for producing a substantially completely biodegradable molded body useful for packaging comprising:

- a. preparing a viscous mixture of a biodegradable fiber material composed of fibers or fiber bundles having fiber lengths or fiber bundle lengths within the range of 0.24 to 4.32 mm, water and starch;
- b. introducing the thus prepared mixture into a mold having a desired shape for the molded body;
- c. heating the mixture in the mold for a time period and at a temperature sufficient to bake the mixture into a cohesive mass having the desired shape; and
- d. applying a biodegradable, hydrophobic, softener-free, liquid impenetrable boundary layer to the thus obtained shaped cohesive mass.

61. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 60, wherein the viscous mixture further comprises a filler.

62. (Currently amended) The process according to Claim 61, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of chalk, ~~kaoline~~ kaolin, talcum, gypsum, alumina, titanium dioxide, aluminum oxide, and mixtures thereof.

63. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 60 wherein the boundary layer is formed by applying a film of polyester, polyester amide or polylactic acid to the shaped cohesive mass.

64. (Previously presented) The process of claim 60 wherein the boundary layer is formed from compounds selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate, cellulose acetate propionate, and mixtures thereof.

65 - 70. (Cancelled).

71. (Previously presented) The process of claim 60 wherein the mixture consists essentially of fibers or fiber bundles having fiber lengths or fiber bundle lengths within the range of 0.24 to 4.32 mm, water and starch.

72. (Previously presented) The process of claim 60 wherein the biodegradable fiber material contains longer fibers or fiber bundles having fiber lengths or fiber bundle lengths within a range of 10 mm to 50 mm and shorter fibers or fiber bundles having fiber lengths or fiber bundle lengths within a range of 0.5 to 20 mm.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brendan Mee", is written over a horizontal line.

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